

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-63 (Cancelled)

64. (New) A drill bit, comprising:

a bit body;

a plurality of roller cone cutters, each rotatably mounted on the bit body about a respective cone axis and having plurality of rows of cutting inserts thereon;

wherein the plurality of rows includes a gage row having a gage insert, wherein the gage insert comprises an insert axis, wherein said insert axis is substantially normal to a gage curve of said drill bit.

65. (New) The bit according to claim 64, wherein said gage row is disposed at a selected distance from a shoulder of said cone.

66. (New) The bit according to claim 65, wherein the selected distance is between 0.060 and 0.300 inches.

67. (New) The bit according to claim 64, wherein said plurality of rows further includes a first inner row comprising a first row insert, wherein said first inner row is disposed at a selected distance off gage from said gage row.

68. (New) The bit according to claim 67, wherein the selected distance off gage is between 0.015 and 0.250 inches.

69. (New) The bit according to claim 67, wherein a ratio of the selected distance to a diameter of the gage insert is less than 0.30.

70. (New) The bit according to claim 67, wherein a ratio of a diameter of the gage insert to the first row insert is less than 0.75.

71. (New) The bit according to claim 64, wherein said plurality of rows further includes a first inner row comprising a first row insert, wherein said first inner row is disposed such that a ratio of an overlap distance between the first row insert and the gage insert to a diameter of said gage insert is greater than 0.40.

72. (New) The bit according to claim 64, wherein the gage insert extends further from the cone at a selected distance, such that a ratio of a step distance of the gage insert to said selected distance is greater than 0.80.

73. (New) The bit according to claim 64, wherein the gage insert comprise a superabrasive material.

74. (New) A drill bit, comprising:
a bit body;

a plurality of roller cone cutters, each rotatably mounted on the bit body about a respective cone axis and having plurality of rows of cutting inserts thereon;

wherein the plurality of rows includes a gage row having a gage insert, wherein the gage insert comprises an insert axis, wherein the insert axis forms an acute angle with respect to said cone axis.

75. (New) The bit according to claim 74, wherein the acute angle is between 0 and 50 degrees.

76. (New) The bit according to claim 74, wherein said gage row is disposed at a selected distance from a shoulder of said cone.

77. (New) The bit according to claim 76, wherein the selected distance is between 0.060 and 0.300 inches.

78. (New) The bit according to claim 74, wherein said plurality of rows further includes a first inner row having a first row insert, wherein said first inner row is disposed at a selected distance off gage from said gage row.

79. (New) The bit according to claim 78, wherein the selected distance off gage is between 0.015 and 0.250 inches.

80. (New) The bit according to claim 78, wherein a ratio of the selected distance to a diameter of the gage insert is less than 0.30.

81. (New) The bit according to claim 78, wherein a ratio of a diameter of the gage insert to the first row insert is less than 0.75.

82. (New) The bit according to claim 74, wherein said plurality of rows further includes a first inner row having a first row insert, wherein said first inner row is disposed such that a ratio of an overlap distance between the first inner row and the gage row to a diameter of said gage insert is greater than 0.40.

83. (New) The bit according to claim 74, wherein the gage insert extends further from the cone at a selected distance, such that a ratio of a step distance of the gage insert to said selected distance is greater than 0.80.

84. (New) The bit according to claim 74, wherein the gage insert comprise a superabrasive material.

85. (New) A drill bit, comprising:

a bit body;

a plurality of roller cone cutters, each rotatably mounted on the bit body about a respective cone axis and having plurality of rows of cutting inserts thereon;

wherein the plurality of rows includes a gage row having a gage insert, wherein the gage insert comprises a cutting portion and a base portion having a base axis extending through the center of the base, wherein the cutting portion is canted with respect to the base portion thereby forming a wedge shape portion, such that a radius through a center point of the cutting portion forms an angle of at least 5 degrees with respect to the base axis.

86. (New) The bit according to claim 85, wherein a radius through a contact point of the cutting portion forms an acute angle with respect to the base axis.

87. (New) The bit according to claim 85, wherein the acute angle is between 25 and 55 degrees.

88. (New) The bit according to claim 85, wherein said gage row is disposed at a selected distance from a shoulder of said cone.

89. (New) The bit according to claim 88, wherein the selected distance is between 0.060 and 0.300 inches.

90. (New) The bit according to claim 85, wherein said plurality of rows further includes a first inner row having a first row insert, wherein said first inner row is disposed at a selected distance off gage from said gage row.

91. (New) The bit according to claim 90, wherein the selected distance off gage is between 0.015 and 0.250 inches.

92. (New) The bit according to claim 90, wherein a ratio of the selected distance to a diameter of the gage insert is less than 0.30.

93. (New) The bit according to claim 90, wherein a ratio of a diameter of the gage insert to the first row insert is less than 0.75.

94. (New) The bit according to claim 85, wherein said plurality of rows further includes a first inner row having a first row insert, wherein said first inner row is disposed such that a ratio of an overlap distance between the first inner row and the gage row to a diameter of said gage insert is greater than 0.40.

95. (New) The bit according to claim 85, wherein the gage insert extends further from the cone at a selected distance, such that a ratio of a step distance of the gage insert to said selected distance is greater than 0.80.

96. (New) The bit according to claim 85, wherein the gage insert comprise a superabrasive material.